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Progress of the English Stage from the days of Julius Cæsar to the present time, 2 vols. 17. 2s. 9d. bds.

THEOLOGY.

Discourses on the Providence and Government of God; by the late Rev. Newcombe Cappe, price 3s. 6d. boards.

A Calm Inquiry into the Scripture Doctrine concerning the person of Christ; by Thos. Beisham, price 14s boards.

BOOKS PUBLISHED IN IRELAND.

A. Report of the Trials of the Cara-

vats and Shanavests, at the special commission, for the several counties of Tipperary, Waterford, and Kilkenny, Taken in short-hand by Randall Kernan, esq. barrister at law, price 5s.

Observations on the Diseases of the Liver, by Thomas Mills, M.D. price 3s. 4d.

On the 10th April, was published, price 5s. 5d. Wild Flowers of Erin; or Miscellaneous Poems; by John Murphy. Printed by R. Coyne, Dublin.

MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

"Why must we always impose on ourselves the necessity of passing through war to arrive at peace? the attainment of which is the end of all wars, and is a plain proof that recourse is to be had to war only for want of a better expedient. Nevertheless, we have so effectually confounded this truth, that we seem to make peace only that we may again be able to make war."

SULLY'S MEMOIRS.

THE late accounts from Spain and Portugal, the narrow escape of General Graham from the treachery and cowardice of his allies, and the retreat of Massena, have furnished topics during this month to revive the spirits of those, who, in their ardour for war, and in their zeal to oppose Bonaparte, overlook more remote consequences. The retreat of Massena has led the British again from their strong position near Lisbon, and from their shipping, whence they derived their supplies. To augur least despondingly, we cannot reasonably expect that they will do more than maintain their position on the borders of Spain, till the disposer of the mighty military power of France arranges his plan, and sends a portion of his great engine of oppression and misery, (for such standing armies, and a military despotism may be justly so considered,) to attempt to regain complete possession of the peninsula; an attempt in which, it must be confessed, he has

been heretofore repeatedly foiled. But the British nation has lost an immensity of blood and treasure in their scheme to support the inhabitants of those countries, who in general show no attachment to them, as allies and defenders, and are very far from acting with vigour in a cause, which they feel to be their own. The retention of some positions in Spain and Portugal cannot be of much consequence in a military point of view, unless the British have the mass of the population on their side. The inhabitants are most probably indifferent to either invading army, and are at a loss to distinguish between enemies and supposed friends. Both armies have in their respective retreats desolated the unhappy countries. The papers are now filled with the most distressing accounts of plunder and French cruelty. Probably many of these accounts are true; but let us recollect that these same prints a few months ago, glossed over the conduct of the British army in their retreat on Lisbon, and complacently told us that the destruction of the country was necessary to distress the enemy, and prevent his procuring supplies. The strictly impartial moralist condemns alike the excesses on every side, and sighs over the miseries ever inflicted on the inhabitants of an in-

vaded country both by the victorious and vanquished armies respectively in their turns.

The present highly exaggerated victories do not seem likely to have much effect on the termination of the present interminable quarrel, of which we can see no probability of any adjustment, for exasperation and the most galling provocations of petty abuse and illiberal policy are daily rendering reconciliation and a return of peace almost entirely impossible. In the mean time, the expenses of this mighty contest, and especially of the struggle on the continent are adding to the national debt, and increasing the difficulties in the department of finance, which some consider as one of the most vulnerable parts of the British empire.

We cannot justly lay claim to the character of a thinking nation, although in the vanity and arrogance of self-complacency, we often times venture to put in an unsupported claim. The majority of the nation are easily duped, and the prevailing error of the present times is a susceptibility of fallibility on such subjects as gratify their prejudices and render them pleased with the political quackery, which has, already produced so much mischief during the last fifty years. It is good to look back, and learn lessons of future caution from instances of former disappointed hopes. Some years ago the Duke of Brunswick, and some non-military closet politicians, even one man, now high in office, talked confidently of leading an army immediately to Paris; and a temporary reverse of affairs in France in 1799 led to the most extravagant hopes of a complete triumph over a nation pronounced to be in the gulph of bankruptcy. These expectations were not realized. It is encountering the certainty of being unpopular to oppose the cur-

rent of general prejudices, and to recommend caution in the moments of intemperate zeal, and highly raised hopes, but they who really love their country, and are desirous to promote her dearest interests will not be dismayed, but will venture to recommend an abatement of excitement, and to point out the dangers of continuing in a system of self-delusion, which has already produced such ruinous consequences.

George Canning took an opportunity after the battle of Barrosa, of proclaiming to the house of commons, the wisdom with which he and his quondam colleagues had planned the defence of the peninsula, and the ability with which it had been conducted. After so long a period of disaster, he might think himself justified in triumphing on a supposed successful reverse. It is however too soon to rejoice. The termination of the business ought to be waited for, before high gratulations can be given. *

The attack on the island of Anholt by the Danes, and the vigorous defence made by Captain Maurice

* It is probable that Napoleon is restrained by the fear of some explosion in Russia, Holland, or even in Germany, which only waits for his setting out, himself, for Spain or Portugal. If, as the *Moniteur* owns, 300,000 Frenchmen be employed in the Peninsula, the reason surely is sufficient for England wishing to fix the *Campus Martius* in these countries, rather than at home. If she can discipline the men fit for arms in Portugal and Spain, by experienced British officers, feeding them well, cloathing them handsomely, and paying them regularly, they will quickly forget the miseries of old men, women, and children, and, *for the time*, prove faithful and efficient allies. In fact, the campaign is only beginning, and if the English army has no other advantage, it will certainly profit by the lessons in tactics it will receive before its termination.

and the British afford another proof of the destructive energies of war, and the misapplication of the powers of man to mutual annoyance. Every event connected with Denmark renews the regret at the unjust and unwise policy, which forced that country into hostility with us, and into an unnatural alliance with France.

The revolution in Spanish America appears from the best, and least partial accounts to be making progress. Miranda is now at Caracas, and is hailed as their leader. His former enlightened views give some hopes of future good, if he do not act like others, who, when in the possession of power have basely turned apostates to the cause of liberty. The friends to the amelioration of man, have grounds to hope, for good results to the cause of liberty in Spanish America, if recent events in France did not cause them almost entirely to despond, and to distrust the fairest appearances.

As a prominent occurrence in our domestic relations, and as an augury of hope in future, we may notice the answer of the Prince Regent, to an application for a grant to General Charles Craufurd to be governor of the Military College at Marlow. "I never can, or will consent to bestow any place or appointment, meant to be an asylum or reward for the toils and services of our gallant soldiers and seamen on any person on account of parliamentary connexion, or in return for parliamentary votes. This is my fixed determination: and I trust I shall never again be solicited in the same way." The minister bowed and retired. General Craufurd is step-father to the Duke of Newcastle; who is lately come of age, and who has the command of several votes in the house of commons. After some attempts on the part of the ministerial news papers to in-

validate the truth of the story, the authenticity of it appears to be fully confirmed. The Duke of Newcastle, it is said, suffered the affair to leak out, and thus the public are put in possession of an important fact, of great importance, as indicative of future honourable intentions. General Craufurd previously had a pension of 1200*l.* a year for his own life, and that of the Dutchesse his wife. He had a Regiment of Dragoon Guards, and was Lieutenant Governor of Tyne-mouth. These are pretty ample pickings to be enjoyed out of the taxes of an impoverished, and overburthened state. Surely there is need of a radical reform, and an entire change of system.

The parliamentary proceedings during this month have not been of much importance, if we except the triumph of humanity and sound policy in Sir Samuel Romilly's bills to abridge in certain cases the punishment of death, being permitted to pass through the house of commons, and the negative put on Lord Folkstone's motion, in relation to the increased number of informations ex officio by the Attorney General in case of libels. Sir Vicary pleaded his own cause, and a majority, rather than force of argument, sheltered him from any inquiry, which he strongly opposed. It is worthy of remark that unless when some party question affecting the interests of the Outs is agitated, the candidates for place seldom attend, and the house is left so thin, as in some cases not to have a sufficient number to proceed to business. The party of the people, a small band, the enlightened Sir Samuel Romilly, the intrepid Sir Francis Burdett, and the honest Samuel Whitbread, with a few others, are vigilantly at their posts; while some of the leading oppositionists mani-

fest by their conduct, for what selfish interests they are contending. As they forget the interests of their country, their country have no right to sympathize with them in their ardent desires to be in place.

C. W. Wynne's bill more effectually to prevent bribery at elections, was not strongly supported by any side. The friends of patronage, on both sides of the house, wish to put no additional checks on their trade, and the friends to parliamentary reform doubted the efficacy of the bill radically to cut up the evil. They feared that unless the borough system was completely reformed, attempts at regulation would only throw the monopoly of boroughs into the hands of government; and that if direct purchase by means of money were prevented, the more secret but not less pernicious influence of offering places and pensions, and of these powerful engines, government have the sole possession, would in such a case be more effectually exerted. The bill was thrown out in a thin house.

Among the accounts from Ireland laid before parliament, large sums appeared for publishing proclamations. Government well understand the secret of silencing the periodical press in their manner of selecting the papers, which they favour by giving to them proclamations to insert. The people also should understand the business, and know that they pay dearly in their taxes for the apathy and venality of the public prints. Thus burdens are increased, and public spirit is destroyed by the operation of favouritism. Contrasted with such disgraceful transactions, how honourable was the honest boast made by Horne Tooke in the house of commons during the short time he was a member of that house, that in his little property, not

one stake would be found which had been stolen out of the public fence.

We hear of a further suppression of the freedom of the press at Amsterdam. The licentiousness of one of their presses is complained of; some hints are given of immoral publications having issued from it, and then comes the real cause of suppression, inflammatory political publications tending to unsettle the public mind against all the governments, to which Holland has been subjected.

This press is termed an *excescence* and is silenced by force. The government of France now equal other regular governments in their reproaches on a free press. It is an unwilling homage, they are forced to pay to the powers of the press, which when virtue is joined to efficacy, deserves all the praise which can be bestowed upon it, but when corrupted by an unfair alliance with power, proves that the corruption of the best things becomes the most pernicious.*

The cause of Catholic emancipation has during this month received additional accession of liberality both from Protestants and Catholics. The resolutions of a Catholic meeting at Newry, placed among the documents, state their grievances, and the errors of favouring an opposite party, in forcible and just terms. It is pleasing to see that they do not hold an exclusive language, or suffer themselves, by the party language and conduct of their opponents, to be driven themselves into an excluding party, but are willing to unite with Protestants as fellow members of the state, without any reference to religious opinions. The Catholics have been long unjustly excluded from their rights, but hence they do not derive a claim to exclude others. The wrongs coun-

* For Baron Smith's remarks on the press, see page 336.

mitted by one party will not justify an inclination to commit a wrong by the other. We are opposed to all narrow excluding notions on any side. Let us embrace as brethren, and banish religious distinctions, respecting them: let us cordially agree to hold different sentiments with mutual good will.

Protestants and Catholics met with becoming union at Ennis, and jointly petitioned for the removal of all distinctions. Another signal instance of the triumph of liberality over prejudice occurred in the county of Tipperary. The Sheriff refused to sanction a call of a meeting, but some magistrates joined in appointing a meeting, which was held at Thurles. Much liberality was displayed both by Catholics and Protestants, and an energetic address to the Prince Regent, and petition to the house of commons, which will be found at page 337, were unanimously agreed to. After the Protestants withdrew, the Catholics honourably concluded the meeting by a vote of thanks to their Protestant brethren. Thus indeed it is a good and pleasant prospect to see brethren dwell together in unity. Bad policy towards Catholics has driven them into seclusion; a contrary conduct might be expected to cause an expansion, and a complete embracement of general principles.

The Catholics have especial cause to complain of a system of favouritism, in dispensing the laws towards them. A disposition, fatal to the best interests of Ireland, prevails among that class of men, who assume the character for exclusive loyalty, to attribute to Orangemen a similar claim. Division, and the favouring of a particular party, always produce weakness in a government. The excluded party become discontented, while the favoured are turbulent and audacious

through impunity, and not infrequently in the end turn on their supporters. Hence in those clan-nish drunken quarrels, which so generally disgrace Ireland, feuds are perpetuated; the triumphant rely on the encouragement and impunity they receive from the magistracy; the others despairing of open redress, brood over their grievances in secret, and kept down by day, they seek their revenge in the night. Even in this more civilized portion of Ireland, instances of favour extended through party motives, are not infrequent. A few days ago, two men had a trifling quarrel in a market, in the county of Antrim, the Orangeman abused his antagonist, and called him a Papist thresher, absurdly introducing religious and political distinctions into a quarrel connected with neither. The other, turning away, said to some of the by-standers, "I could beat that man now, but if I did, my life would not be safe, as he would collect his brethren in another place, and overpower me." In another quarrel, on the same day, an assailant, on being apprehended in an act of outrage, by a peace-officer, exclaimed, "I am an Orangeman, and I call on all Orangemen to defend me!"

While the manner of executing the laws, favours such a system of private outrage, and while all are not secure of the most strict impartiality in the administration of justice, things are not as they ought to be, and Ireland cannot be tranquil. Innumerable evils proceed from the system of Orangeism, and notions of exclusive loyalty. In nine instances out of ten, (in ninety-nine instances out of an hundred some would say,) if the motives of the outrageously loyal, were closely analyzed, it would be found, that they originate in some selfish regard,

in some wish to obtain or retain posts for themselves, their sons, relations, and connexions. They boast of pre-eminent exclusive loyalty, but they possess only a supposititious quality, in which the public good is a fraction of the lowest value, and a regard to selfish interest the almost entire component. Fictitious loyalty is loud and assuming, always obtrusive on public observation, and fails of its end, and becomes languid, if it do not pretty speedily acquire the notice of the dispensers of the favours of government. By its fruits the tree is easily known. The brawlers for loyalty, by overacting their parts, frequently discover themselves.

Although the following statement has already appeared in most of the public papers, we give to it a record in our retrospect, as handing down to future times a well authenticated account of the grievous sufferings brought on by the present war.

"The petition intended to be presented to the House of Commons, by the manufacturers in Glasgow, and its neighboured, contains the following melancholy representation:

Of 9,560 looms, in Glasgow and its immediate vicinity, 3889 were empty on the 8th of February last. In the four following weeks there must have been 500 more idle: in all, 4,389. The manufacturing towns and villages in the country were still more deficient of employment: of 825 looms in Hamilton, 365 were idle at the same period. The following statement may be relied on as correct:—

	Looms.	Idle.
Girvan,.....	500	409
Airdrie,.....	700	400
Stonehouse,.....	60	59
Kilmarnock,.....	800	460
Stevenson,.....	105	80
Castle Douglas,.....	80	78
Langholm,.....	150	105

"Other places are in proportion; so that the idle looms, in West of Scotland, are taken below the truth, when stated at *fifteen thousand*. It is well known, that every loom laid idle, turns another person out of the employment of winding, serving, ornamenting, &c.; which, when taken into account, swells the list of idle persons to *thirty thousand*."

The friends of parliamentary reform have been greatly exhilarated by a declaration said to have been made by the Prince Regent, on the minister's recommendation of General Craufurd, to the office of Governor of the military college at Marlow. A coalition is spoken of between the leading advocates for immediate and effectual, and those for gradual and moderate reform, and a canvass of towns and county meetings is proposed for the co-operation of the people, we presume, by petitions to parliament.

And so, and so, you are once more to measure the same weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable round, and with the same likelihood of eventual success. "To collect the sense of the people!" why, the people have told you again, and again, and again, that they wish most anxiously for a reform, as if indeed there was any need of informing us, that it must be the natural wish of every proprietor in the kingdom, to have a proportionate share of political power, and to be a real, not a virtual constituent in the constitution. You mock the people with asking such a question. Of the people, rightly so called, the *impartial* people, not one in ten thousand who do not desire their political rights. Of the *elemosynary* people, who depend, for themselves, and for all their connexions, upon post, place, pension, and expectancy, not one in ten-thousand (and since the war they are to be reckoned by tens and hundreds of thousands) but

would resist a political reform, as they would their personal dissolution.

The *reason* of the people is as much satisfied upon the subject as it can be. In this country, thirty counties petitioned for reform, thirty years ago, and were then told by Lord Charlemont, an amateur of liberty and the fine arts, to persevere, and that they would be sure of accomplishing their purpose. Thus we are satisfied of any gospel truth, and so we depart, calmly convinced of the doctrine promulgated by the preacher, but the practical reform is from year to year procrastinated, until at length some striking calamity, or severe malady, rouses to a sense of duty, and brings on a panic of repentance. Is it not a truth, that deliverance from a bad habit, either in the individual, or the nation, must be effected by what may be called a sudden *wrench of mind*, which both in personal and public character is most likely to be the consequence, of misfortune, and often from the dread of impending dissolution?

Most painful and embittered are often our sensations, when we cannot sympathize as we think we ought; when we are not first in hailing, with hand and heart, the successes of our gallant soldiery, and our unrivalled marine, damped as we are with the consciousness of these successes adding strength and permanence to the multiplied errors and crimes of a most base and corrupt political system, which is, in truth, the perennial fountain of so much private as well as public immorality. In the alarming crisis, that we cannot help thinking approaches, with respect to the utter depreciation of our paper currency, we extract a consolatory hope, that a calamity of this kind, disastrous as it will, no doubt, prove to many, may yet

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operate in occasioning this aforesaid wrench of disposition, in the most *perverse* parties.

Thus may be accomplished a bloodless revolution, by demonstrating the absolute necessity of creating, not a bank confidence, not a money confidence, but a moral confidence in the integrity and impartiality of a provident and paternal government, actuated by the will, and inspired with a real regard to the welfare of the whole people.

In short, we believe that a parliamentary reform *will never* take place, but under the *compulsion of extraordinary circumstances*; and if the annihilation of paper credit should occasion this exigence, we shall, in any event, be comforted, that ministry has been driven to its last and best resource,—the bullion of the British heart, a bullion which will, however, be obstinately *hoarded*, until the proper means be taken of calling it forth—viz. by a just and adequate representation of the people in parliament.

We may remark, by the way, on this subject of the excess of worthless paper money, that were the *waste lands* and *commons* of the kingdom, to be appropriated as a landed security for the gradual extinction of the excess of paper, it might, under the guarantee of parliament, regain a full value in circulation, as the representative of real and exchangeable property. Paper would then have an equivalent. Sinking credit a substantial support. Population would be sustained by paper, and the capacity of the soil might be able to preserve some proportion to the fecundity of the species. There would be a paper's worth, as well as a money's worth, in the country, which in the course of some years, might accumulate in production, and the quantity of crop

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raised from the waste and neglected surface, would be a worthy substitute for the incessant abstraction of coin. These notes might be signed by Malthus, and Co. as some provision against the evils of his indefinite multiplication.

While other countries are falling back upon their resources, and endeavouring by every means to become less dependent on each other; while America is making use of her non-importation act as a *bounty* for the encouragement of her own manufactures; while France is training all Europe in the same economical policy, and setting herself the example of allocating 80,000 acres of her territory for the cultivation of beet root-sugar and the woad indigo, and the same number of acres for the cultivation of cotton and tobacco, while this underselling, and non-consumption policy of state, is silently, and surely, systematising throughout the world, England keeps her wastes in excellent preservation, and depends on importations from abroad, for her daily bread. Let her *coin* her wastes. Let her give fresh currency to her depreciated constitution. Let her instead of adding to the value of dollars, raise the value of two millions of acres, and of *five millions of men*.

Let her Prince set himself at the head of the people, and do it, in *time* enough to save his country. He will otherwise find himself in the inextricable folds of a serpentine faction, he will grow inured to all the bad habits, and contaminated by the evil practices to which, at present, he is an involuntary accessory. The times require not merely an amiable and indolent deference of filial duty, but a heroic accomplishment of that prime and paramount duty, which the governor owes to the governed, and the power of performing which is placed

by Providence, thus early, in his hands, that he may avert the impending danger, and approve himself our second great deliverer. There is no medium, our George must either kill the Dragon of Corruption, or he himself, and all whom he protects, will be destroyed by its baleful breath.

Our fugitive leaves aspire scarcely to diurnal reputation, much less to posthumous fame. Sufficient for the day, is the *good* thereof. We do not even speculate upon the literary distinction of appearing great—in a little book-case. There is a certain aristocracy in authorship, which we think militates much against the real utility of the press. There is an egotism, a selfishness which looks less to the public advantage, and to the general spread of knowledge, than to individual gratification. The primary, and not the secondary object is, to be contemplated by what is called the learned few, or, a still higher delight, to contemplate *itself*, throned upon the shelf of a library, in a darling duodecimo, of the very neatest typography. Perhaps after the painful probation of ten revolving years, to satisfy supreme ambition, and to gloat, with miserly fondness, on the imposing magnitude of a massy quarto, with its dedication, and decoration, and first and second prefaces, and posterior proofs, and illustrations, of little addition, and plentiful iteration. The authorship that will not condescend to commit itself to the “vulgarity” of periodical publication, is much more regardful of its dear little self, than either of enlightening mankind, or performing a good service to the genuine interests of literature. The wealth of mind, like the wealth of a nation, is often heaped up for the use of a *craft*, rather than diffused for the benefit of the *kind*, and never circulates through the

mass of the community. Literature, aiming still at size, rather than intrinsic value, partakes much more of the nature of a monopoly, and exclusive manufacture, than of that elemental usefulness, which was designed by providence to warm the whole world with its rays, and to cheer it with their effulgence. Benjamin Franklin did infinitely more good to others, and even to eternizing his own name, by condensing knowledge into nut-shells, and throwing it in a cheap and easy form, among the populace, than those voluminous men of *letters*, who expand their globules of genius, into such an extent of surface, and illustrate the astonishing divisibility of mind, as well as matter.

"It is this miserable trick of overrating the importance of all our conceptions, (say the Edinburgh Reviewers, who, by the bye, do not fall short in the faculty of ingenious amplification,) that has made our recent literature so intolerably diffuse and voluminous. No man, for example, has now the forbearance to write essays as short as Hume's, even if he had talents to make them as good; nor will any one be contented with stating his views and arguments in a popular and concise manner, and leaving them to their fate, but we must have long speculative introductions, illustrations, and digressions, objections anticipated, and answered, verbose apologies, at once fulsome and modest, practical inferences, historical deductions, and predictions as to the effect of our doctrines, or the neglect of them, or the fate of men, and of the universe, in all time coming."

Society with us, is not perhaps divided into *casts*, separated by such insurmountable boundaries as they are in Indostan, where the Brahmins alone are permitted to read and explain, the Katty tribe suffer-

ed to hear, but even the listening to others who read, is deemed too great a privilege for the degraded race of Soderas. Yet without any such nominal distinction, there is, in reality, a sort of literary *cast* in these countries also, (without naming any of the other casts), through which, what may be called literary intellect circulates, as in a corner. This corner however large it may appear to the literati themselves, occupies but a small space in the edifice of society, and this class of people, highly self-opinionated as they are, and labouring, as they affect to say, and perhaps believe, under the incumbent pressure of the whole world, bear, however, but a small proportion in numbers to the rest of the mass, and in intrinsic importance, a still inferior proportion. In the republic of letters there is an aristocracy of authorship, which dedicates all its talents and acquirements, to what may be called the privileged class of readers, who are able to *pay* for the operose and splendid manufacture of mind, and thus amply remunerate the cost of publication.

By this *partial* dedication of themselves, the literary cast becomes more careless and indifferent about the public, in the largest sense of that momentous word. In that sense, the public is not *their* patron. It only can afford time to read news-papers, and magazines, and surely no one can suppose that they could humiliate themselves to appear in such receptacles. They are apt to say, with Chamfort, the public!—the public!—how many *fools* go to make a public—and in reality the literary class, since it descended from its appropriate place, the *attic* story, to parade personally in the antichambers of the great, and, in their productions, to repose in state on the shelves of magnificent libraries, have forgotten their more

sublime, we may call it, divine destination. What is that destination? what is that laurel crown which surrounds the temples with its never-fading verdure? what is that eternal lamp which irradiates the sepulchre, and guides posterity to pay due reverence to its august inhabitant? It is, plainly and concisely, it is, by the powers of the pen, unprostituted, and the powers of the press, unrestrained, in its public and political exercise and energies, to assist and accelerate THE SPREAD OF INTELLECT throughout the living mass of humanity, and in doing so, not to slight too contemptuously, the most easy and popular means of accomplishing a good and generous purpose.

RELIGION was once, and still, alas! continues among a large proportion of mankind, to be a mystery or craft in the possession of a priesthood, and used for the emolument and exaltation of *their* cast, above their fellow-creatures. Then, KNOWLEDGE was made a monopoly, and truth was to be a *secret* among a few philosophers, who, in the fumes of their arrogant self-opinion, despised and drove away "the profane vulgar," and instead of encouraging the progress of human improvement, with their ipse dixit, proclaimed, thus far shall these go—but no further. Then LIBERTY was to be hoarded up as an exclusive property, and it is much to be feared that the literary cast has, of late, become accessory to this felony on the human race. Windham is their orator, and Mitford their historian. Blessed be the memory of Benjamin Franklin. He published Poor Richard for the use and improvement of the populace. He wrote little almanacks, of dense intelligence, for the *vulgar*; sublime, yet lowly. By his philanthropy he became a benefactor to mankind, by his patriotism he became gloriously instrumental in es-

tablishing the freedom of his country, and by his philosophy he drew the lightning from heaven, and ruled, with a rod of iron, its thunder!

DOCUMENTS.

COUNTY DOWN CATHOLIC MEETING.

At a Meeting of the Roman Catholic Gentlemen and Freeholders of the county of Down, convened by public advertisement, at the Sessions-house, in the town of Newry, 25th March, 1811, C. G. Cosslett, of Nutgrove, esq. in the chair.

The Petition prepared for presentation to Parliament, in the name and in behalf of the Roman Catholics of Ireland, and the address to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, as voted by the aggregate meeting held in Dublin on the 8th inst. being read;

Resolved—That we entirely approve of said petition and address, and adopt them—confidently relying on the wisdom of the legislature for the removal of those disqualifications of which we justly complain; and cordially participating in the expression of affectionate attachment to the person and character of his Royal Highness, and in lamenting the severe affliction with which our gracious Sovereign has been visited.

Resolved—That we regard as a most flagrant abuse of authority, the late attempt to impede the exercise of the right to petition, in his Majesty's faithful subjects, the Roman Catholics of Ireland. And we offer to the noblemen and gentlemen who compose the Catholic committee, and to the aggregate meeting, held in Dublin on the 8th inst. the tribute of our entire approbation and most grateful acknowledgements, for the ability and zeal with which they have conducted our cause, and for their manly and dignified assertion of our rights.

Resolved—That the Yeomanry associations, as established in this county and province, are founded in the most unwise and mischievous policy. That where Roman Catholics constitute a very large proportion of the population, and in many places are a decided majority, they are almost universally excluded from the Yeomanry corps. In this province we believe no Roman Catholic gentleman holds a military commission. In a country where divisions have been hitherto, and we fear are yet, fostered, this distinction has the most malignant influence, in perpetuating a spirit of hostile domination on one hand, and